

**TENNESSEE WARS COMMISSION
REPORT OF ACTIVITIES**

June 16, 2006

Fred M. Prouty
Director of Programs

TENNESSEE DEDICATES ITS NEWEST CIVIL WAR BATTLEFIELD

Parker's Crossroads Battlefield was officially dedicated on Saturday, June 10th, 2006 with a ceremony attended by over one hundred visitors and invited guests. In attendance were representatives from the Civil War reenactment community who supplied a regiment of mounted Confederate cavalry troopers and a battery of ten full-scale Civil War artillery pieces that participated in the dedication event. Parker's Crossroads Battlefield is the most recent battlefield preservation success story in Tennessee and contains over 206 acres of preserved National Register battlefield property. The Battle of Parker's Crossroads is listed as one of Tennessee's 38 most significant battlefield sites as recorded in the 1993 Congressional publication, *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

Parker's Crossroads preservation victory was made possible through the efforts of the Tennessee Wars Commission, several historically-minded Tennessee legislators and local city officials, the Civil War Preservation Trust, federal TEA-21 Enhancement funding appropriations, and the support of the Tennessee Lands Acquisition Committee. We are indebted to all of those who have shared in the vision of preservation and interpretation of this historic battleground for future generations to appreciate and enjoy.

Guest speakers for the dedication included: Norm Hill, Chairman Tennessee Historical Commission, Walter Durham, Tennessee State Historian, Susan Whitaker, Commissioner of Tennessee Department of Tourism Development, Woody Harrell, Superintendent Shiloh National Military Park, Representative Steve McDaniel, James Lighthizer, President Civil War Preservation Trust, and Fred Prouty, Director of Programs, Tennessee Wars Commission. The ceremony officially ended with the firing of cannons. The sound of the guns firing from the newly acquired and preserved battlefield property had not been heard for over 143 years on those Hallowed Grounds.

TRIUNE CIVIL WAR EARTHEN FORTIFICATIONS TOURED

At the request of Mr. Joe Smyth, President of the Save the Battle of Franklin association (a non profit organization), Tennessee Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty lead a tour of more than fifty individuals through the pristine and extensive field fortifications at Triune, Tennessee. The earthworks (located on private property) are now endangered by development and are located several miles east of Franklin, Tennessee. During the war the fortifications held over 10,000 union troops on a regular basis and in June of 1863 the works at Triune became the forward staging area for more than 30,000 union troops commanded by U.S. General Rosecrans. The eventual federal success of the Tullahoma Campaign led to the ultimate union occupation of most of Tennessee. The Wars Commission continues to work with local landowners, the Land Trust for Tennessee, the Franklin and Williamson County Heritage Association, the Save the Battle of Franklin Association, and others in efforts to preserve these significant military engineering treasures.

SUMNER COUNTY MEXICAN WAR MONUMENT DEDICATION

On March 12, 2006 the Director of Programs for the Tennessee Wars Commission attended the dedication of the restored Sumner County Mexican War Monument in Gallatin City Cemetery. Funding for the restoration was provided by a grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission. The monument is the oldest Mexican War monument in the United States and is dedicated to the men who volunteered for service from the Gallatin area and those who died during the conflict. Tennessee won acclaim for its larger than requested troop enlistments during the war and lead to its title as the "Volunteer State".

DAVIS BRIDGE BATTLEFIELD ACQUIRES NEW PARK RANGER

Ongoing acquisition of battlefield property continues at Davis Bridge Battlefield in McNairy County and now contains over 230 acres. Recent discussions with Tennessee State Park officials and Assistant State Park Commissioner Mike Carlton, have lead to the placement of a Tennessee Park Ranger (connected with near by Big Hill Pond State Park), in a house located on the Davis Bridge Battlefield property. The home was purchased by the state as a part of the recent land acquisition of an eighty-six acre farm located on core battlefield property. This not only gives Big Hill Pond State Park a modern housing facility for their newest ranger but also adds to the overall security and maintenance of the Davis Bridge Battlefield property. This is the kind of state inter-departmental partnership that makes a big difference in the way the Wars Commission can aggressively peruse its preservation goals and duties. Our thanks to Tennessee Parks Commissioner Carlton and park staff officials for their consideration on this and other projects.

TENNESSEE SEQUICENTENNIAL AND STATEWIDE CIVIL WAR TRAIL PROGRAM MEETING

Wars Commission director of programs continues in his role as board member of the Tennessee Sesquicentennial Civil War Planning Committee. The Committee, chaired by Tennessee Department of Tourism Commissioner Susan Whitaker, envisions a collaborative planning effort working with communities across Tennessee as well as other states, in preparing for the 2011-2015 commemorations, which is expected to be more extensive than the 100th and 125th anniversaries. The Sesquicentennial Committee is an outgrowth of a planning committee established for the purpose of creating a Tennessee Civil War Trail Signage Project. A federal TEA-21 funding application was submitted last year requesting funds for the creation and installation of statewide interstate and county Tennessee Civil War Trail marker signs. The trail will be linked to the publication of five or more major military campaign trail brochures and will also interpret the complete story of the war from its antebellum through post war reconstruction years. The Trail Signage Committee awaits approval of Enhancement Funding that is to be awarded by Governor Bredesen sometime after July 1, 2006.

TCWPA LEADERS VISIT EAST TENNESSEE

Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) President Steve McDaniel and Executive Director Mary Ann Peckham, along with Tennessee Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty, recently toured sites associated with Confederate General Longstreet's East Tennessee Campaign. Mr. Mike Beck, President of the Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association and TCWPA Board member Jack Fishman (both of Morristown, Tennessee) provided an orientation program the evening of March 23rd followed by an all day tour on Friday, the 24th. Mr. Joe Brent, National Park Service Civil War site assessment contractor joined the group for the tour. Mr. Beck lead the team beginning with Longstreet's headquarters site in Morristown and ending with the Mossy Creek battlefield. From there State Representative John Litz joined the tour group for a tour of the Morristown and Bulls Gap sites. At Strawberry Plains, historian Dewey Beard took over as leader for a tour of extensive Civil War earthworks and related railroad sites in the area. State Representatives, along with historians Shane Miles and Matt Spice and other interested local members of the community, accompanied the driving, walking, and hiking tour to several Civil War sites in the region. The Wars Commission has proposed creating a preservation and interpretation plan for the above East Tennessee area that will bring these significant and endangered Civil War resources in to the public's attention. It will also help establish the area as a new historic tourism destination in the eastern portion of the state.

LONGSTREETS' HEADQUARTERS HOUSE PRESERVED

The Lakeway Civil War Preservation Association (LCWPA) has recently purchased a house (in Hamblen County) once used as headquarters by Confederate Lieutenant General James Longstreet during the winter of 1863-64. Members of the LCWPA joined Wars Director Fred Prouty, Mr. Danny Olinger from TVA's Cultural

Resources Program Division, and Mr. Neil Hansen Coordinator of the Tennessee Department of Transportation TEA-21 Enhancement Office, for a teleconference and brainstorming session on preservation and interpretation possibilities for the Longstreet house. The Tennessee Wars Commission will continue working with the LCWPA in partnership with local, state, and federal organizations, to help develop a TEA-21 Enhancement funding proposal for the creation of a Welcome/Interpretive East Tennessee Civil War Visitor Center at the Longstreet headquarters site. Our thanks to the Center for Historic Preservation at Middle Tennessee State University who recently inspected the Longstreet house and will publish a comprehensive preservation study plan for the Lakeway Civil War Association.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNAGE COMPLETED FOR DAVIS BRIDGE

Through a grant made by the Tennessee Wars Commission to the Davis Bridge Battlefield Preservation Association, construction of interpretive signage for the battlefield has now been completed. State of the art metal signs and kiosk with color illustrations and troop movement maps are to be assembled this summer by the local preservation association members. The signs will be placed on the battleground with assistance from former Shiloh Military Park Historian, Stacy Allen. The two hundred plus-acre battlefield site is quickly becoming one of Tennessee's newest Civil War tourism destinations and remains one of Tennessee's most pristine battlefield properties.

WARS COMMISSION DEVELOPING HISTORIC SITES CONSERVATION INITIATIVE THROUGH TDEC

The Tennessee Heritage Conservation Act (THCA) was created through the efforts of Governor Phil Bredesen to develop a statewide Heritage Conservation Initiative Program for our state. Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation (TDEC) Commissioner Jim Fyke has asked the Tennessee Wars Commission director of programs and Tennessee Historical Commission coordinator of state historic sites, to participate in the new program. The objective is to establish an interagency land acquisition geographic information system (GIS) that will serve as a land acquisition database to rapidly collect, store, analyze, and distribute information concerning potential and available properties of historic and archaeological importance. The Wars Commission has currently identified over three hundred significant Civil War sites in Middle and West Tennessee and is now completing a list of over one hundred sites in West Tennessee.

It is by means of collecting and sharing the above information that we can arouse interest from the general public and government officials as to the significance of our endangered Civil War site resources in Tennessee.

CONSERVATION EASEMENT PROJECT FOR CAMP TROUSDALE CONTINUES

Negotiations continue in order to preserve property that encompasses one of Tennessee's largest early war training camp facilities, known as Camp Trousdale in Sumner County. The Wars Commission recently conducted a reassessment of the privately owned training camp property located near Portland, Tennessee on the old Louisville and Nashville Railroad and about 16 miles north of Gallatin. The training camp became active beginning in May of 1861 when Confederate General Felix K. Zollicoffer was appointed as commander of six Tennessee infantry regiments at Camp Trousdale. With the fall of Forts Henry and Donelson to federal naval and land forces in February of 1862, Camp Trousdale was abandoned and all quartermaster and commissary stores evacuated to Nashville.

Today evidence of the original camp springs and foundations for an 1850s school house that served as head-quarters and hospital are all part of over 100 acres of farm land that remains untouched since the camp was disbanded 143 years ago.

Through a new partnership with The Land Trust for Tennessee the Wars Commission has entered into talks with the current property owner. It is hoped that a conservation easement administered by the Land Trust can be established and will preserve the endangered site from future development. Long-term plans would include the creation of an interpretive trail system with kiosk and signage for future tourist development and visitation.

TENNESSEE TEA-21 PROJECT PLANNED FOR COLONIAL AND NATIVE AMERICAN SITES

The Tennessee Wars Commission is currently in the process of creating a TEA-21 Enhancement application requesting federal funds (20/80 match) for historic site interpretation and preservation in Sumner County. The request will craft a plan for the area's historic sites in order to construct an interpretive trail system with signage, kiosk, brochures, web site, and an on-site state of the art welcome/interpretive center and museum. The Wars Commission will soon obtain a draft copy of the TEA-21 application to be presented to the Gallatin, Tennessee based Heritage Committee.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE UPDATES CWSAC REPORT

The National Park Service (NPS) has initiated a resurvey of the 1993, *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission (CWSAC) Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*. Tennessee Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty has provided the NPS a one hundred page archival research document along with an on-site analysis of existing battlefields as requested by the NPS. Park officials will revisit and survey all thirty-eight Civil War sites in Tennessee that were classified as most significant to the outcome of the war.

The conclusion of the resurvey will hopefully upgrade preservation priority classifications of some Tennessee sites allow them to seek matching NPS, American Battlefield Preservation Program funding for future battlefield acquisition and preservation.

USCT MONUMENT DEDICATION CEREMONY

The Nashville based United States Colored Troops (USCT) Memorial Foundation has created a life size bronze sculpture and memorial/monument honoring over 2,000 USCT soldiers buried in the Nashville National Cemetery located on Gallatin Road in Madison, Tennessee. Construction of the sculpture was been made possible through private donations and a grant from the Tennessee Wars Commission. The United States Department of Veterans Affairs and National Cemetery Administration approved the placement of the monument in the Nashville National Cemetery and was dedicated on February 18, 2006 during an extremely cold and snowy day. This is the first freestanding memorial in America to the United States Colored Troops recognizing their efforts in the southern theater of war.

TENNESSEE'S CIVIL WAR TRAIL BROCHURE UPDATED

The director of the Wars Commission has reviewed and approved a draft copy of the new Tennessee Civil War Trail Brochure, "A Path Divided" and has returned it to the publisher for printing. The cover will feature Civil War artwork by renowned Tennessee artist David Wright from Gallatin, Tennessee. Over 250,000 brochures will be sent to all Tennessee Welcome Centers for the 2006 summer distribution.

PROPOSAL TO OBTAIN 101 ACRES OF PROPERTY AT PARKER'S CROSSROADS BATTLEFIELD

The Battle of Parker's Crossroads is listed as one of Tennessee's 38 most significant battlefield sites as recorded in the 1993 Congressional publication, *Civil War Sites Advisory Commission Report on the Nation's Civil War Battlefields*.

The Wars Commission is currently partnering with the National Park Service's American Battlefield Preservation Program (ABPP), the Civil War Preservation Trust organization, and the Tennessee Lands Acquisition fund in efforts to obtain an additional one hundred acres of endangered core battlefield at Parker's Crossroads. The addition of the above one hundred plus acres will enhance the battlefield visitor experience while they view the existing two hundred and sixty-acre battlefield site. Two miles of asphalt battlefield trail system are now in place along with thirty-eight interpretative signs and kiosk, seven artillery pieces, and a long section of split-rail fencing that played a crucial role during the battle.

BILLY GOAT HILL PROPERTY SAVED

Another recent battlefield preservation success story occurred in Chattanooga on a thirty-six acre portion of the battlefield known as Billy Goat Hill. The national nonprofit organization Civil War Preservation Trust (CWPT) has purchased the battlefield property and requested the Tennessee Wars Commission to hold title to this historically significant site. The property was purchased by the CWPT with a match from the National Park Service, American Battlefield Protection Program (ABPP). The Tennessee Wars Commission furnished legal documentation stating that the state would be willing to accept the above property as a conservation easement once a clear title was provided and approved by the State Building Commission and has now been finalized. The Wars Commission role in the project is to hold title to the property with the City of Chattanooga being under contract as the Primary Caretaker with full responsibilities of maintaining the site. The state was not asked to contribute state funds to this project for the purpose of acquisition or for maintenance of the property following acquisition.

WESTERN THEATER CIVIL WAR MUSEUM PLANNED FOR NASHVILLE

Wars Commission Director Fred Prouty recently attended a meeting to discuss the possibilities of creating a comprehensive Civil War Interpretive Center at Nashville's historic Fort Negley Civil War site, operated by Nashville Metro Parks. The state is currently planning a statewide observance of the Civil War Sesquicentennial (in 2011-2015) and a Fort Negley Interpretive Center could become a tremendous sesquicentennial "legacy" for the state. Talks centered on possibilities of a for obtaining funding for the Sesquicentennial Interpretive facility that would becoming the "linch pin" for Civil War heritage tourism in the state. Pamplin Historical Park (near Petersburg, Virginia) has become the quintessential Civil War museum for the Eastern Theater of War and there is no such Western Theater counterpart. Tennessee would be the logical setting for such an attraction and Nashville the logical historical Civil War "center" for the Western Theater of Warfare. A state of the art Welcome and Interpretive Center at the Fort Negley complex could become one of Tennessee's premier heritage tourism destinations and the logical mid-state hub for the proposed statewide Tennessee Civil War Trail System.

In attendance at the meeting were Nashville Metro Parks and Metro Historical Commission officials, State TEA-21 Enhancement Fund officials, Tennessee State Tourism staff, Representative Steve McDaniel, Commissioner Goetz of the Tennessee Department of Finance and Administration, and State Comptroller John Morgan.

TWO FLAGS OVER TENNESSEE

The Tennessee Civil War Preservation Association (TCWPA) is sponsoring "Two Flags Over Tennessee Reclaiming Our Civil War Heritage," a two-year statewide plan to fly two Civil War-era flags, an 1861 version of the U.S. "Stars and Stripes" featuring 34 stars, and the 11-star, 1861 Confederate "First National" flag, known as the "Stars and Bars," over all of Tennessee's most significant Civil War battlefields. The U.S. flag will

fly over Union battle positions and the First National flag over Confederate battle positions at as many as 50 sites across Tennessee. The two-year journey crisscrossing the state will be documented in two large scrapbooks collecting and preserving photographs, letters, and news articles from activities and events at each location.

TCWPA is a nonprofit organization that was created in the first year of the Tennessee Wars Commission as a sister nonprofit organization dedicated to preserving, protecting, and interpreting Tennessee's Civil War battlefields for the benefit of present and future generations. For more information, send email to contact@tcwpa.org; or visit www.tcwpa.org.

MILITARY HISTORY CONFERENCE IN CHATTANOOGA

Tennessee Wars Commission Director of Programs Fred Prouty was honored to speak at the recent 40th Annual Military History Conference in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Prouty welcomed members to the Volunteer State and spoke about the duties and goals of the Wars Commission along with some of its past accomplishments. Later in the week, during the four-day conference, Director Prouty lead a busload of forty or more conference members on a tour of the Fort Negley Civil War fortifications in Nashville. This is a prime example of the type of professional Civil War study groups and organizations that make Tennessee a frequent destination for their Civil War tours. Our rich historic resource connected with the War Between the States is one of Tennessee's most valuable commodities and the preservation and interpretation of Civil War sites is not only the honorable thing to do but just makes good sense.

Address comments and suggestion to:

Fred M. Prouty
Director of Programs
Tennessee Wars Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, TN 37214
615-532-1550, ex. 104
Fred.Prouty@state.tn.us
<http://www.tdec.net/hist/TnWarsCom.shtml>